

#9 Request for
Reconsideration
001/003072
9/17/02

60130-1003
99MRA0015

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fisher, et al.
Serial No.: 09/784,991
Filed: February 16, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3626
Examiner: Boswell, Christopher J.
Title: LATCH MECHANISM

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Official

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 10, 2002. Claims 1-22 remain in this application.

REMARKS

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Claims 1-13 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Spurr in view of Pettit. Claims 15-17 stand rejected as being obvious further in view of Cutler et al. Spurr discloses a vehicle door latch assembly 10 including a pawl 16 that retains a claw 12 in engagement with a striker. Pettit discloses a laminate 10 including a plurality of metal plies 12 spliced together to increase the width of the laminate 10. Cutler discloses a complex hybrid ceramic matrix composite laminate 10 which is a high temperature, damage tolerant, thermal shock resistant, oxidation resistant, and high strength laminate.

There would be no benefit to employing the spliced laminate 10 of Pettit in the latch assembly 10 of Spurr. The latch assembly 10 of Spurr includes small parts. As the parts of Spurr are small, there would be no motivation or benefit to employ the width increasing laminate 10 of Pettit in the latch assembly 10 of Spurr. Additionally, the laminate 10 of Pettit is a complex

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material used in aerospace applications, which would be expensive. There would be no reason to employ the complex expensive laminate 10 of Pettit in the latch assembly 10 of Spurr. Additionally, the laminate 10 of Cutler is also a complex laminate. There would be no benefit to providing this high temperature complex laminate in the combination of Spurr and Pettit. There is no suggestion to combine any of these references, and the combination is improper.

Additionally, the claw 12 and the pawl 16 of Spurr withstand side impacts when contacting each other. As the laminate 10 of Pettit is used in aerospace applications of increased width, the laminate 10 of Pettit is not designed to withstand side impacts as would occur with the small parts of the latch mechanism of Spurr. There is no reason to employ the laminate 10 of Pettit in the latch mechanism of Spurr, and Applicant's claims are not obvious.

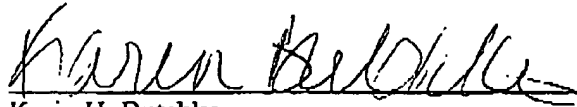
Claim 22 is further not obvious. Pettit illustrates and discloses four metal plies 12 in the laminate 10. Each of the metal plies 12 has a break 18 positioned at different locations. Applicant's claim 22 requires that at least one of the latch bolt and the pawl is made from a plurality of laminations, and a profile of one of the laminations is different from a profile of the other laminations. Pettit does not disclose that the metal plies 12 have different profiles as required by Applicant's claim 22. Claim 22 is further not obvious.

Thus, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are due. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, TC3600, After Final, 703-872-9327 on September 10, 2002.



Karin Butchko